

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Medical Training and Practice

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Medical colleges are known to exist at Warsaw, Gdansk (Danzig), Poznan, Szczecin (Stettin), Wroclaw (Breslau), Torun, and Bytom (Beuthen). 25X1
2. Every new university student must be approved by a special qualifications committee, which consists of a teacher and representatives of the Party, in addition to the regular examinations. The committee, with the help of dossiers, investigates the social origin and political past of the new student. Those of bourgeois origin are frequently refused admission.
3. A time limit has been fixed for taking final examinations. The Medical Training Department of the Ministry of Health determines the future plan of work for each student, who is offered a choice of two alternatives. Before the time limit for taking examinations was established, students who were displeased with the place of work allotted to them had at times deliberately put off taking examinations.
4. To enable a student to begin work immediately upon completion of his five years of study, he is permitted to practice during the fifth year. The sixth and final year is devoted exclusively to practical work.
5. The entire medical curriculum is under review; the government wants to shorten the time, although this has proved impracticable.
6. The government gives the new physician medical equipment and an apartment in the place to which he is assigned.
7. These steps have been taken to meet the shortage of physicians. According to official figures, 12,000 physicians are required, but only 8,000 are currently practicing. The ratio of physicians to total population before the war was .39 (14,000 physicians to 36,000,000 inhabitants), and the present ratio is .32 (8,000 physicians to 25,000,000 inhabitants). However, public health service has been extended considerably, with the result that fewer physicians are available for therapy.

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8. There is no uniform period of military service for physicians. One year is the customary period, but this can be and is frequently extended up to indefinite service in the regular army. There are likewise no fixed rules for physicians reserve duties. He may be called up several times a year, once a year, or once in two years. The customary period of service is six weeks or 100 days, but this can be reduced or extended according to army requirements.
9. Medical assistants and nurses are being thoroughly trained on a large scale; the government is anxious to replace untrained personnel engaged immediately after the war. The curriculum lasts two years for medical assistants and three years for nurses. Schools are located in all parts of Poland, as are schools for auxiliary personnel, such as physical therapists and bacteriologists.
10. Most physicians work ten or eleven hours a day because of having to serve at more than one place.

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